Performance of Israeli Barak Defence System

1572. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during a recent trial by Indian navy, the newly acquired Israeli Barak Defence System was found to have fallen short of the target;

(b) if so, whether Israeli military experts were consulted for diagnosing the fault in the system; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):(a) Although the target was successfully shot down during one of the two firing runs, it was declared unsatisfactory because of certain technical malfunctioning.

(b) and (c)The malfunctions noted during the trial have been examined by the equipment manufacturer and a re-trial of the system is being scheduled shortly.

Steps to boost combat efficiency of Army

1573. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is stagnation in the officer's cadre of the armed forces and older age profile of battlefield commanders may adversely affect the combat efficiency of our Army;

(b) if so, details of short-term and long-term steps proposed to be taken so as to avoid any dilution in combat capabilities of our Army; and

(c) whether the structure of training content of our Armed Forces is continuously reviewed with a view to update the changing profile of attack ^strategy, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Several issues relating to stagnation in the officers' cadre and the older age profile of commanders of the Army were brought to the notice of the Ministry of Defence. In order to examine these issues, a Committee